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Attorney Docket No. 392.1821

BY THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Tetsuaki Kato, et al.

Application No.: 10/679,318

Group Art Unit: 3742

Filed: October 7, 2003

Examiner: TBA

For: SPOT WELDING SYSTEM AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING PRESSING FORCE OF SPOT WELDING GUN

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:

- 1a. ☒ Form PTO-1449.
- 1b. ☐ Copy(ies) of IDS citation(s), except for U.S. Patents and U.S. Patent Application publications for applications filed on or after June 30, 2003.
- 1c. ☐ English language copy of a communication(s) from a foreign Patent Office or a PCT International Search Report.
- 1d. ☐ English language translation (complete, Abstract or relevant portion(s)) attached to non-English language publications as indicated on the attached Form PTO-1449.
- 1e. ☒ Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of non-English publications.
- 1f. ☐ List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).
- 1g. ☐ List of Additional Submitted Documents (ATTACHMENT 1(g), hereto).

2. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR § 1.97(b):

(Check either Item 2a or 2b or 2c or 2d)

- 2a. ☐ Within three months of the filing date of a national application;
- 2b. ☐ Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application.
- 2c. ☒ Before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; or
- 2d. ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114.

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3. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR § 1.97(c) after the period specified in paragraph 2 above but before the mailing date of any of a Final Office Action under § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, AND
- (Check either Item 3a or 3b; Item 3b to be checked if any reference known for more than 3 months)*
- 3a. ☐ The § 1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable; OR
- 3b. ☐ The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) is:
- ☐ enclosed.
- ☐ to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
4. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR § 1.97(d) after the period specified in paragraph 3 above, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee, AND
- 4a. ☐ The § 1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable; AND
- 4b. ☐ The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) is:
- ☐ enclosed.
- ☐ to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
5. ☐ Statement under § 1.97(e) *(applicable if Item 3a or Item 4a is checked)*
- (Check either Item 5a or 5b)*
- 5a. ☐ In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), it is stated that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- 5b. ☐ In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2), it is stated that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known by any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
6. ☐ This is a continuation/divisional/continuation-in-part application under 37 CFR § 1.53(b).
- (Check appropriate Items 6a and/or 6b)*
- 6a. ☐ Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were previously cited in prior application Serial No. ___, filed on ___, and which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date for the subject application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, have been omitted pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.98(d).
- 6b. ☐ Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were not previously cited in prior application Serial No. ___, filed on ___, and which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date for the subject application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, are provided herewith.

7. ☐ This is a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR § 1.114.
(Check either Item 7a or 7b)
- 7a. ☐ The Issue Fee has not been paid.
- 7b. ☐ A Petition to Withdraw from issue under 37 CFR § 1.313(c) is filed concurrently herewith or has been granted. A Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR § 1.114, after payment of the Issue Fee, is proper in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.114(a), respectively.
8. ☒ This is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.
(Check either Item 8a or 8b)
- 8a. ☒ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(f) supplements the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 19, 2004. A bona fide attempt was made to comply with 37 CFR § 1.98, but inadvertent omissions were made. These omissions have been corrected herein. Accordingly, additional time is requested so that this Supplemental IDS can be considered as if properly filed on ____.
- 8b. ☐ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is timely filed within one (1) month of the Notice under 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, mailed ____.
9. ☒ In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:
(Check appropriate Items 9a, 9b, 9c and/or 9d)
- 9a. ☐ satisfied for the non-English language publication(s) cited on the enclosed "English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office". (See MPEP § 609, Minimum Requirements for an Information Disclosure Statement, Part A(3): Concise Explanation of Relevance, 8th Ed., Rev. 2)
- 9b. ☐ set forth in the application.
- 9c. ☐ satisfied for the non-English language publication(s) indicated on the attached Form PTO-1449 as having an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached thereto .
- 9d. ☒ enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.
10. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

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11. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17 for this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

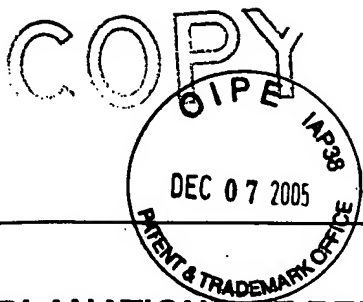
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 

John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607



**EXPLANATIONS OF RELEVANCY
OF REFERENCES**

ATTACHMENT 1(e)

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | APPLICATION NO. |
| 392.1821 | 10/679,318 |
| FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | |
| Tetsuaki Kato, et al. | |
| FILING DATE | GROUP ART UNIT |
| October 7, 2003 | 3742 |

The Japanese Examiner states grounds for rejection of the corresponding Japanese application in the Notice of Grounds for Rejection as follows:

GROUND S

1. A patent shall not be granted for an invention according to the following claims of this application to provision of Section 29 (2) of the Patent Law since the invention could easily have been made, prior to the filing of the patent application, by a person with ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains, on the basis of inventions which were described in a distributed publication or made available to the public through electric telecommunication lines in Japan or elsewhere prior to the filing of the patent application.

2. This application does not fulfill the requirements provided in Section 36 (6), (ii) of the Patent Law in the following aspects.

Note (please refer to List of Cited Documents, etc. regarding cited documents, etc.)

Ground 1

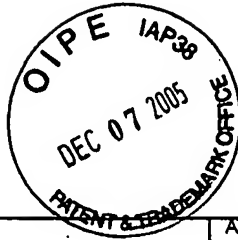
- Claims 1-4
- Cited references 1, 2
- Notes:

In the cited reference 1 (see paragraphs [0032]; [0033]), it is described to control a current of a servomotor so that the pressing force becomes a predetermined pressing force in a welding gun driven by the servomotor.

In the cited reference 2 (see page 2, left column, lines 2-9), it is described to control a torque of a motor by monitoring a temperature of the motor and correcting the current in accordance with the temperature.

In the welding gun of the cited reference 1, it is obvious that the pressing force is dependent on a torque of the motor and to adjust the pressing force by controlling the torque, for a person with ordinary skill in the art.

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ATTACHMENT 1(E)

**EXPLANATIONS OF RELEVANCY
OF REFERENCES**

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | APPLICATION NO. |
| 392.1821 | 10/679,318 |
| FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | |
| Tetsuaki Kato, et al. | |
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Thus, it can be achieved by a person with ordinary skill in the art to adopt the motor torque control means described in the cited reference 2, in the structure of the cited reference 1 to make the pressing force be a predetermined value.

Ground 2

(1)(2) [Grounds for rejection regarding clarity of recitations in claims 1 and 2: translation omitted]

LIST OF CITED DOCUMENTS, ETC.

1. JP 2002-35953 A
2. HP 61-112584 A

RECORD OF PRIOR RT DOCUMENT SEARCH RESULTS

- Searched Field of Art IPC Ver. 7 B23K11/11, 11/24

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Use Date Stamp and return

Attachment 1(e)

APPLICANT(S): Tetsuaki Kato, et al.

APP. NO: 10/679,318

CONFIRMATION NO. 5232

INVENTOR: SPOT WELDING SYSTEM AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING PRESSING FORCE
OF SPOT WELDING GUN

FILED DATE: October 7, 2003

APP. NO: 392.1821/JCG:rk

FILED DATE: November 3, 2004



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